

# Light of Dharma

仏法の光

Published by the Buddhist Church of San Francisco

1881 Pine St. San Francisco, CA 94109

(415) 776-3158

buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco.org

## Welcome Rev. Melissa & Becca Opel to BCSF!



A goodbye party with 100 Spokane friends, packing up a houseful of dogs and belongings, a road trip to San Francisco, then a new Sangha to get to know on June 1!

## Appreciation Service April 30, 2023

BCSF recognized the following individuals for their work sustaining us through the challenges of the 2020-2023 temple shutdown and gradual re-opening. Their help has made it possible for us to move confidently forward into 2023 and beyond.

### Minister, Minister's Assistants, Tech

- Rev. Henry Adams
- Leo Balambao Sensei
- Jack Dairiki Sensei
- Rev. Elaine Donlin
- Leo Joslin Sensei
- Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki
- Rev. Dr. David Pating
- Camille Pating Sensei
- Kevin Yoza
- Chelsea Arita



### Light of Dharma printing/ mailing

- Akiko & Thom Arikawa
- Jun Dairiki
- Keith & Priscilla Kojimoto
- Joyce Nakamura
- Teresa Ono
- Suzanne Yamada



### Office Mail and Deposits

- Elaine Donlin
- Jeff Matsuoka

### Mask Sewing

- Sachi Kuwatani
- Yoko Sumida

### Dharma School Teachers

- Rev. Elaine Donlin
- Camille Pating
- Tara Mochizuki
- Nanayo Silver

### Kimochi, Lunch Program

- Kai Fukumitsu
- Shawne O'Connell

### Choir

- Misaye Abiko
- Betty Fujimoto
- Yukiko Oka



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- Arlene Kimata
- Gary Kitahata
- Grace Lim
- Susan Sakuma
- Hitomi Silver
- Nanayo Silver
- Nobumi Silver

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- Susan Sakuma
- Sathya Seigel
- Sheryl Serafino
- Stephanie Ugrin- Sequoias



# Message from Rev. Henry Toryo Adams

Supervising Minister for BCSF

## *Impressions from the Pilgrimage Tour*

Last month I had the opportunity to travel with Rev. Takashi Miyaji of the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Temple and members of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco on the Bay District Pilgrimage Tour to attend the 17th World Buddhist Women’s Convention, held in conjunction with the Joint Service Celebrating the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, followed by an excursion to sacred sites related to hidden Nembutsu practice in the Kagoshima region. We arrived in Japan at Haneda Airport in Tokyo and spent the first two nights of our trip at a hotel located near the Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple, where Rev. Miyaji and I joined a 7:00 a.m. morning service at the Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple. Tsukiji Hongwanji is located in central Tokyo, surrounded by tall office buildings, and some of the attendees joined the service on their way to work.

Later that day, the Tsukiji Hongwanji staff gave our Bay District group a guided tour of the temple grounds. We were impressed by the unique temple architecture which incorporates elements of classical Indian Buddhist temple design and early twentieth-century Western architecture. Tsukiji Hongwanji also offers a community columbarium that provides an affordable and meaningful option for people living in the urban area to remember loved ones supported by the Buddhist community.

From Tokyo we traveled to Kyoto, where Shinran Shonin spent many years of his life, to visit the sites of important events of his life. Attending the 6 a.m. morning services at Hongwanji, the Joint Celebration Service on May 10, and the World Buddhist Women’s Convention were highlights of our trip. Gathering with Nembutsu followers from all over the world to reflect upon Shinran Shonin’s steadfast dedication to sharing the Nembutsu teaching renewed the profound gratitude we feel to Amida Buddha for the compassionate vow that ensures our the path to liberation.

During our time in Kyoto, we had the opportunity to visit the Shorenin Temple where Shinran Shonin was ordained as a Buddhist priest at the age of nine, the Enryakuji Temple complex on

Mount Hiei where he pursued rigorous monastic practices for 20 years, and the Otani Mausoleum, where Shinran Shonin’s youngest daughter Kakushinni established the memorial site to remember him and his teachings following his birth in the Pure Land. Encountering the life of Shinran Shonin through these concrete experiences of the world he lived in deepened our personal appreciation for the Nembutsu teaching.



For the final leg of our journey, we traveled to Kyushu to visit sites related to the hidden Nembutsu practice that continued for a period of about 300 years from the 16th to 19th centuries, when the Shimazu clan that ruled the Kagoshima region brutally suppressed the Jodo Shinshu teaching. During that period of severe persecution, followers of the Nembutsu teaching continued their practice underground, often gathering in caves by the cover of night to hold services taking refuge in Amida Buddha and reciting the Nembutsu.

During our stay in Kagoshima, we visited the Tateyama Kakuregama, a historic site of hidden Nembutsu practice, along with the Kagoshima Betsuin, where one of the local Jodo Shinshu Buddhist priests shared the history of hidden Nembutsu in Kagoshima and invited us to view the namidaishi (“stone of tears”), an artifact of the period of Nembutsu persecution that is now displayed at the Kagoshima Betsuin in order to educate visitors about the fearless commitment to the Nembutsu teaching shown by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhists of Kagoshima.

Hearing the history of the hidden Nembutsu in Kagoshima shed new light on the extraordinary dedication and sacrifice made by those who have come before so that the Nembutsu teaching of Shinran Shonin could be passed down for us to receive today. Reflecting on all the efforts that have made it possible for us to receive the precious legacy of the Nembutsu, we feel a renewed commitment to pass the Nembutsu teaching down to the next generation.

Namo Amida Butsu

<p><b>Building/ Facilities update</b></p> <p>BCSF/ BCA Elevator project: The elevator is ready for passengers! Can you volunteer to staff the BCA Austin Street entry for Sunday services? Contact the office for training.</p>	<p>Apartments 1,2, 3: renovations and cleaning have been completed. Roof, office ceiling and Nokotsudo ceiling repairs will soon begin.</p> <p>Octavia gym entry door and Austin apartments’ exit doors were vandalized on April 16th. Both door handles have been repaired.</p>	<p>New WiFi for "Guest Use" in the Social Hall &amp; Classrooms</p> <p><b>BCSF_Extended</b></p> <p>Password is posted in Social Hall &amp; Classrooms</p>
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## Message from Rev. Henry Toryo Adams

Supervising Minister for BCSF

### 参拝旅行に味わえたこと

先月南アラミダ群仏教会の宮地崇先生とサンフランシスコ仏教会のメンバーを含めて桑湾教区(サンフランシスコ周辺)の団体と一緒に親鸞聖人の御誕生850年及び立教開宗800年の慶讃法要、第17回世界仏教婦人会大会、そして鹿児島県の隠れ念仏の参拝旅行に行ってきました。

羽田空港で日本に入国してから、東京の築地本願寺の近くのホテルに2泊をしました。その間に築地本願寺の晨朝勤行(じんじょうごんぎょう)(お朝勤(あさじ))に参拝しました。築地本願寺は東京の中心にあって、周りに高いオフィスビルがたくさんあります。築地本願寺のお朝勤は7時から始まるのでそのオフィスで働いている方々はお朝勤にお参りしてから、職場に向かった方もいました。

築地本願寺のスタッフに境内のご案内をいただきまして、インドの伝統寺院の形と西洋の建築の影響が見える本堂は新鮮でした。本堂に立派なパイプオルガンが安置されていることは興味深い参拝者もいました。都会に引っ越してきている現代人のニーズに応じて新しく考えている納骨の形式を提供している合同墓も築地本願寺にあって、親鸞聖人が800年前に立教開宗した教えは私の時代に続けて人々の救いになっていることを味わいました。

それから親鸞聖人が長年住んでいた京都に移動して、850年前にお生まれになった親鸞聖人に関わる場所を訪ねることができました。浄土真宗本願寺派の御本山である西本願寺に毎朝6時のお朝勤と5月10日の慶讃法要に参拝して、世界仏教婦人会大会に参加しました。世界各地の念仏者とともに親鸞聖人のご遺徳を偲び、そのご苦勞を通じて、阿

弥陀如来のご本願によるお救いをあらためて心に深く味わわせていただくことができたことはありがたいご縁でした。



親鸞聖人が九歳の時に得度をして僧侶になった青蓮院、二十年間修行を励んだ比叡山延暦寺、そして親鸞聖人が往生した後に聖人の末娘覚信尼公が作った大谷本廟に参拝して、京都国立博物館で特別に展示していた親鸞聖人の直筆の聖教にご拝見できたことによってより一層親鸞聖人のご生涯とお念仏のご縁のありがたさを深めました。

それから九州に移動して、鹿児島のかくれ念仏の遺跡を訪ねました。かくれ念仏というのは江戸時代に島津藩が浄土真宗を禁止して、念仏者を激しく弾圧していた間に、信仰を失わず洞窟などに隠れて阿弥陀如来を拝み続けたことを示す。実際にかくれ念仏が続けた場所である立山のかくれがま(「がま」は鹿児島の方言で、山の斜面などに掘った横穴のこと)を訪ねて、西本願寺鹿児島別院にて鹿児島のかくれ念仏の歴史を学びました。鹿児島別院の境内に「涙石」という弾圧の歴史を象徴する石も拝見できました。

そのかくれ念仏の歴史を聞いたら、私達にお念仏の教えを伝えるためにたくさんの方々が大変ご苦勞してこられたことに気づかせて、私達もこれから親鸞聖人が説かれた浄土真宗の教えが次の世代に伝わるように励むべきだと実感させました。

南無阿弥陀仏



**The next BCSF Japanese language service will be held on Sunday June 11 at 1 pm led by Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki**

## Donate Your Unused Pocket Radios

From Rev. Keisuke, BCSF Minister's Assistant and Chaplain at Zuckerberg SF General Hospital



SFGH patients, some of whom are homeless, enjoy listening to their favorite music while recuperating in isolation rooms.

We are collecting 10-20 pocket-size radios that use AA batteries (not AAA or A batteries; no plug-ins to electric outlets). Please do not purchase new radios or donate i-pads because they are likely to be stolen.

If you have unused old-fashioned small radios, please bring them to BCSF or call the office to schedule a pickup.

With appreciation,  
Keisuke Lee-Miyaki (宮木 リー 啓輔)

## Acknowledgments for donations processed between April 15 and May 15, 2023.

Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF.

### DONATIONS

Anonymous  
 Julie Yumi Hatta- Dana Program  
 Betty I Iseri  
 Janet J Kashiwada  
 Christina M Magee  
 Vicky Perry  
 Noriko Takikawa  
 Minoru & Suzanne Yamada  
 Shinji & Yoshi Yao IHO: Dharma School

### MEMORIALS

Eiko Aoki IMO: Elsie Nakamura  
 Eiko Aoki IMO: Betty Tsugawa  
 Atlas H & Janet E Arakawa IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
 Yoko Arimoto IMO: Randall Arimoto  
 Kazuye Ikuma IMO: Betty Tsugawa  
 Janet J Kashiwada IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
 Michael Kurihara & Arlene Kato IMO: Hamada Family  
 Yoko Maeda IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
 Jeff & Sandy Mori IMO: Hamada Family  
 Kosaku Karl & Shirley Nakamura IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
 Joi & Chris Ninomoto IMO: Hamada Family  
 Edward & Ayako Nishimoto IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
 Mickie Ochi IMO: Betty Tsugawa  
 Bobby & Teri Okamura IMO: Hamada Family  
 Susan T Sakuma IMO: Betty Tsugawa  
 Sasaki & Yamamoto Family IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
 Lorraine Suzuki IMO: Hamada Family  
 Debby Tsugawa Wong & Randy Wong IMO: Betty Tsugawa  
 Minoru & Suzanne Yamada IMO: Betty Tsugawa

### GOTAN-E SERVICE

Anonymous  
 Atlas H & Janet E Arakawa  
 Kiyoshi & Tazuko Naito  
 Kumi Okamoto

### BCSF MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE

Amanda Hing Hernandez  
 Kenneth Kitahata

### LIGHT OF DHARMA NEWSLETTER DONATION

Toshiko Kamishita  
 Agnes & Dick Sasaki  
 Linda Sekino Omori & Steven Omori  
 Arthur & Yoshiko Yoshihara

### MARCH SHOTSUKI HOYO

Lily Campos IMO: Yae Moriguchi

### APRIL SHOTSUKI HOYO

Hanako Fujimoto IMO: Joji Fujimoto  
 Alex Kami IMO: Yoshiaki Kami  
 Chiyeko Kimura IMO: Sachi Ikeda  
 Harumi Kishida IMO: Sanichi Nakao  
 Marilyn Noda IMO: Kaoru Noda  
 Linda Oshita IMO: Eiji Oshita  
 Junko Sakita IMO: Momoyo Sakita  
 Setsuko J Tanaka IMO: Tom Tomoyuki Tanaka  
 Shizue Tanaka IMO: Peter Toshiyuki Tanaka  
 (1yr memorial)

### MAY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Jeannette Dores IMO: Kazuo Saiki  
 Karen M Graham IMO: Yuriye Ito  
 Bernice Hamai IMO: Takato Hamai  
 Tokuko Haskell IMO: Hatsuko Hall  
 Dean Hedani and family IMO: Eiji Hedani  
 Sharonlee E Kotabe IMO: Daniel T. Kotabe  
 Janet & Daniel Kuniyama IMO: Namiko Yokoyama  
 Shirley M Masada IMO: Charles Masada (17th Year Memorial)  
 Shirley M Masada IMO: Chika Masada  
 Jean H Morino IMO: Shokichi Morino  
 Kaz & Cindy Morino Nakamoto IMO: Kaz & Mom  
 Kosaku Karl & Shirley Nakamura IMO: Chiyono Nakamura  
 Ben Tsutomu Nanjo IMO: Yoneko Nanjo  
 Mickie Ochi IMO: Suma Ochi  
 Steven Omori IMO: Yoshiharu Omori  
 Osamu & Tsuruko Sekino IMO: Yukio Sekino  
 Stacey L Shimamoto IMO: Yukiko Hosoda  
 Elaine Takeuchi IMO: Fumiko Tsuha  
 Kate Thiel IMO: Toraki Kawahara  
 Nozomu & Donna Tokugawa IMO: Yoshimi Tokugawa  
 Peggy Tsujimoto IMO: Sumiko Tsujimoto  
 Reiko & Jeffrey Watanabe IMO: Kiyoshi Watanabe  
 Akiko Yamagishi & Jean Hiura IMO: Kimiye Takahashi  
 Akiko Yamagishi & Jean Hiura IMO: Yonezo Takahashi  
 Kiyoko Yamasaki IMO: Susumu Yamasaki

### JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO

Jane Hamada IMO: Gale Hamada (50th Year Memorial)  
 Steve Inouye IMO: Ruth Midori Inouye  
 Chizuko Nakamura IMO: Masato Nakamura (50th Year Memorial)

### NOVEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Jane Hamada IMO: Casey Hamada (25th Year Memorial)  
 Jane Hamada IMO: Mary Hamada (13th Year Memorial)

## Leadership Workshop Led by BCSF Jr. YBA



On Sat, April 29th, BCSF Jr. YBA members Max, Kelli, Sara & Dagan, with support from the Center for Buddhist Education Youth Coordinator Koichi Mizushima, hosted & moderated a Jr. YBA Youth Leadership event at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Eleven teen leaders from Bay District participated in three workshops created & led by Kelli, Sara, Max & Dagan. The focus was on developing leadership skills using improvisation & role-

playing. The workshops helped the participants learn ways to support members in their own chapters, improve their oral & written communication skills, & recruit new members and keep them motivated to stay in Jr. YBA.

The day ended with boba, a walk around sunny Berkeley, a sushi-making activity with Koichi and a delicious dinner served at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

# BCSF News

## Horibe Award Nominations due Sunday, June 18, 2023

Has a young member of our Sangha impressed you with their interest in Buddhism or their spirit of Dana? Consider nominating them for the Horibe Religious Award which was established through the generosity of Mrs. Suye Horibe in memory of Sutekichi and Tasuke Horibe. The award is presented annually to one young member of BCSF who lives life in accordance with the Dharma while supporting and strengthening the Sangha.

The recipient will receive \$100 and a framed Certificate of Recognition to be presented at a future date.

Any child of a dues-paying member of BCSF between 16 and 22 years of age may be nominated. Nominations must be received at the office by **June 18**. Each young person nominated must receive a nomination from two BCSF members, so please confer with a like-minded friend to join you in your nomination. The Award Committee will confirm the qualifications of the nominees before making the selection.

Send nominations to the BCSF office by June 18. If you have questions, please contact Tara Mochizuki, Horibe Award Coordinator, at [bcsfoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bcsfoffice@gmail.com) or (415) 776-3158.



### HORIBE RELIGIOUS AWARD 2022 NOMINATION FORM – due June 18, 2023

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Their Church Activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you believe this nominee is deserving of the Horibe Award? Please give details of activities that demonstrate how they “live their life in accordance with the Dharma.” \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of First Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number and email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Second Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number and email \_\_\_\_\_

## Rev. Sasaki’s funeral on April 30, 2023 at the Mt. View Buddhist Temple



## BCSF Youth Rising- Jr. YBA/ Dharma school Max Land's Dharma message

Hi everyone! My name is Max Land. I'm a senior at Sacred Cathedral Prep, and I am giving my final exam for the Dharma award from the Padma/Sangha/Dharma class.

I've had Buddhism in my family for generations and generations. Both my grandparents are at the end of a long line of Buddhist ministers, spanning back centuries in Japan. My Ojichan is a retired minister, who came to America from Japan and my Obaachan's father actually worked at this very temple about 80 years ago. As a child, I'd often attend services here at the Buddhist church. I played basketball for several years just downstairs, but never truly wanted to be here to be completely honest.

I simply went through the motions, doing what I was told to do, but never really actively trying to get involved or do anything of substance. The reasons for this were quite complex. From kindergarten to 8th grade, I attended a very small private school in Marin Country - super small and one that really lacked diversity. I was one of two Asian kids in my class and maybe one of six or seven in the entire school. I was always somewhat hesitant to embrace my Japanese-Buddhist identity, so foreign to this Caucasian uniformity. It wasn't because I was ashamed or anything: I just wanted to fit in. My Japanese culture wasn't something that I made my priority at Marin Horizon, instead opting to blend in with the crowd. I found myself shying away from half of my culture and in turn, Buddhism, and it wasn't until high school that this finally changed.

As it is for most kids, the switch from middle to high school was a big change. I headed to Sacred Heart Cathedral, a Catholic high school right in the middle of the city, swapping a predominantly white student body for an incredibly diverse one, and thirty fellow students for four hundred. SHC is by design a very diverse school. Taking kids from all over the city, from all different backgrounds, was quite different than what I was used to. With this change, I started to understand the value of embracing both aspects of my culture.

It was then that I joined the Jr. YBA here at church around this time too. While these old insecurities had jumped to the forefront of my mind, I went through with it. Initially nervous and unsure, I quickly found myself fitting in very easily with my peers in Jr. YBA. This, along with the broadening perspective afforded to me by heading to SHC, made me actually want to become more involved in Jr. YBA. In these last few years, during which I've spent time as religious chair, recording secretary, and co-president, what we've accomplished has not only impacted the smaller BCSF community, but also the City's entire Japanese-American community through a variety of different things from fundraising to food distribution to volunteer work. In turn, the time spent at the church because of Jr. YBA furthered my connection with Buddhism. I started to pay more attention at services and even co-chaired quite a few, so this isn't my first time up here. When I was younger, I sat indifferently at services, watching and waiting for them to end. Now, I'm up here giving my own talk.

Let's jump into what the class has taught me about Buddhism. Here are just a few concepts that I've found have genuinely impacted my life: #1 Causes & Conditions, which is the idea that things don't happen by accident or by luck. They happen because causes and conditions arise that make it possible for things to happen. As I learned in my class, the causes and conditions that led to where I am now are extremely varied and complex. The causes go back

quite far in time - without coming back to the City choosing to go to SHC, I wouldn't be as open or willing to embrace Buddhism. Without joining Jr. YBA, there is no way I'd be up here right now. Without taking the class, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do so. Without all of these causes, I wouldn't be the person who I am today.

Everything that I've done and experienced in my life so far has caused the result. The conditions are a little different. Without a supportive family, without a stable support system in school, without the freedom of living in this country, none of who I am or where I am today would be the same. Perhaps the most important condition is my unique perspective. Without the experience of going to a predominantly white school, I wouldn't be able to fully appreciate the importance of my duality. It's made it possible for me to live in both cultures. It's allowed me to be grateful to not only connect with and appreciate my Japanese side, but understand that everything that led up to this point didn't happen by accident. By feeling maybe that I didn't fit in earlier in life, I learned that I do fit in, everywhere.

There is no coincidence of where I am today and I am extremely thankful for it, bringing to another concept that I learned in this class: The Four Gratitudes.

The Buddha taught that gratitude is a reflection of someone's integrity and civility, teaching the Four Gratitudes, each of which I feel can be directly applied to my life.

· The Four Gratitudes are:

- 1) Gratitude for One's Parents. I'm grateful for my parents every day, who love me unconditionally and support me in whatever I choose to do.
- 2) Gratitude for One's Teacher. I'm grateful for every single one of my teachers, both formally and informally, who have taught me so much about the world.
- 3) Gratitude for One's Country and Society. I'm grateful for being able to live in a country where I can have the opportunities that I have. I'm grateful for living in a city where I feel safe (for the most part) and truly love, despite its flaws.
- 4) Gratitude for the Three Treasures of Buddhism. I'm grateful for being part of a religion as inclusive and open-minded as Buddhism.

After experiencing Catholicism at school for four years, I find myself much more appreciative. Beyond that, Buddhism means a lot of different things beyond just religion. It's a way to appreciate my Japanese heritage and it's a way to connect with that community within San Francisco. It's a way to connect with my grandparents and extended family and with my Jr. YBA friends. It plays a major role in who I am and who I am becoming and I am forever grateful for discovering that.

After taking this class and getting an opportunity to reflect, I feel much more connected to my heritage, to my family, to my ancestors, to all of you, and, unlike how I felt for a good chunk of my life, I do feel like I'm happy to be here. Thank you!



# BCSF Youth Rising- Congratulations Class of 2023!

## High School Graduates

Taye Arikawa-Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. to  
University of British Columbia  
Temple Activity: Jr. YBA



Aidan Chew- Lincoln HS to UC Davis  
Temple Activity: YAO

Andrew Cheng- Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep.  
Temple Activity: YAO

Alexander Hedger- Lowell HS to UC Irvine  
Temple Activity: YAO

Kyan Ichinose- Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. to  
University of Oregon  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, Dharma School for Sangha  
Award

Nathan Jann- Gateway HS to UC Berkeley  
Temple Activity: YAO

Neo Johnson- Emery HS to San Jose State  
Temple Activity: YAO

Caitlyn Ju- Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. to  
University of Arizona  
Temple Activity: YAO

Max Land- Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. to  
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, Dharma School for Dharma  
Award

Audrey Lee- Lowell HS to UC Los Angeles  
Temple Activity: YAO

Tyler Lee- Gateway HS to University of Portland  
Temple Activity: Jr. YBA

Breanna Lew- Lowell HS to San Jose State University  
Temple Activity: YAO

Ben Liang- Galileo HS to UC Santa Cruz  
Temple Activity: YAO

Kalli Lim- Drew HS to Chapman University  
Temple Activity: YAO

Rachael Lin- Lowell HS to UC San Diego  
Temple Activity: YAO

Sydney Lopin- Ruth Asawa SF School of the Arts to  
The New School (New York City)  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, Girl Scouts, Taiko

Noah Louie- Lowell HS to UC Santa Barbara  
Temple Activity: YAO

Ethan Ly- Lowell HS to Chapman University  
Temple Activity: YAO

Robyn Mar- Drew HS to Cornell College  
Temple Activity: YAO

Kelli Matsumura- St. Ignatius College Prep. to  
University of Southern California  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, Girl Scouts, Taiko, Soko  
Gakuen, Dharma School, Padma Award, Horibe Award

Sara Matsumura- St. Ignatius College Prep. to  
University of Southern California  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, Girl Scouts, Taiko, Soko  
Gakuen, Dharma School, Padma Award, Horibe Award

James Mertz - George Washington HS to  
City College of SF - Football/University Transfer Program  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, YAO

Jordyn Owyong- George Washington HS to  
City College of SF  
Temple Activity: YAO

Derek Ryugo- Lincoln HS to UC Davis  
Temple Activities: YAO, Boy Scouts

Raeden Serafino- George Washington HS to  
City College of SF - University Transfer Program  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, YAO

Keira Shimamoto-Tong- George Washington HS to  
San Jose State University  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, YAO

Mika Shimamoto-Tong- George Washington HS to  
Chapman University  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, YAO

Dagan Wakil- Lowell High School to UC Santa Barbara  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, YAO, Dharma School for  
Dharma Award

Ayumi Wong- Lowell HS to UC Irvine  
Temple Activity: YAO

Kiera Wong- Lowell HS to UC Irvine  
Temple Activity: YAO

Gracie Wong- Wallenberg HS to UC San Diego  
Temple Activity: YAO

Kayleigh Yee  
Independence High School to UC Berkeley  
Temple Activities: Jr. YBA, Dharma School for Dharma  
Award, Taiko

Kevin Yee- Washington HS to UC Santa Cruz  
Temple Activity: YAO

## College Graduates

Grace Lim- City College of SF to UC Davis  
Former Temple Activities: Dharma School, Girl Scouts,  
Jr. YBA, YAO, Bon Odori Teacher

Chiemi Silver- UC San Diego, B.A. in Linguistics (Speech  
and Language Sciences) and B.A. in Japanese Studies  
Former Temple Activities: Dharma School, Girl Scouts,  
Jr. YBA, YAO, Bon Odori Teacher



# BCSF Youth Rising- Congratulations Class of 2023!



**Kindergarten to First Grade**  
Camille Hing-Hernandez  
Temple Activity: Dharma School

To the right are some of the graduating Jr. YBA seniors who were recognized at the May 14th service. From left: Sydney Lopin, Kelli Matsumura, Dagan Wakil, Sara Matsumura, and Raeden Serafino.



## BCSF News



Thank you to Misaye Abiko who arranges the flowers for the Onaijin.



Suzanne Yamada & Ina Tao after the Gotan-e service.



Thanks to Scoutmaster William Che's professional expertise, we now have strong WiFi in the apartments, classrooms, conference room and Boy Scout room.

## More thank you notes received for the Oseibo gift.

April 9, 2023

Dear BCSF Board,

Thank you for your kind and generous Oseibo. It's been my privilege to serve the temple as a M.A. & Dharma School teacher. I'm very grateful to each of you for your many sacrifices & hard work to keep

our temple going during a challenging time. Thank you for securing our new resident minister. At BCSF we are lucky to have a dedicated sangha community & strong leadership of our Board.

Thank you and Gassho from both of us!  
Camille & David Pating

May 2023

Dear BCSF Sangha:

I started volunteering at BCSF during the pandemic delivering bentos to our Richmond sangha. My 89-year-old mother Chiyo and I visited and sometimes chatted way too long with our new friends Mrs. Noriko Takikawa, Mrs. Yaeko Noda, Mrs. Akiko Yamagishi, Mrs. Betty Tsugawa, Mrs. Shirley Murakami and Mrs. Tami Yasuhara. I volunteered at the time because I had lost

three family members within a few months. Three years later I feel like I have 50x new family members. I feel so fortunate to be here as Office Manager and able to greet and get to know all of you better here at the temple.

Thank you so much for the generous oseibo and for treating me like family. I appreciate your smiles, kind words, and lovely notes. It warms my heart.

Gassho,  
Sheryl Serafino

April 2023

Dear Nanayo & BCSF Board,

Thank you for your kind words and generous Oseibo gift. It is indeed a collective

effort to spread the Dharma and I am most grateful for the BCSF community!

With Gratitude and Gassho,  
Elaine

May 2, 2023

Dear Members of the BCSF Sangha,

Thank you very much for your truly generous Oseibo gift. I am deeply grateful for all of your support and Dharma friendship

as we walk the path of the Nembutsu together and work to carry forward the spiritual heritage of the BCSF for the coming generations. Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,  
Rev. Henry



# BCSF News



Second Annual Pride Flag Raising -  
June 4  
Japanese Peace Plaza

From Joyce Nakamura,  
BCSF member & SF JACL board member:

Please join us on June 4th!  
This event is part of the Queer  
Transgender Asian Pacific Island  
(QTAPI) Week and Pride month events.

- \*Rev. Elaine Donlin of BCSF/JARF will speak
- \*MC is Nick Large of QTAPI; he will perform as well as his drag persona, Kristi Yummykochi
- \*Queer Taiko
- \*Okaeri (Japanese American LGBTQ+ families/allies)
- \*Supervisor Dean Preston

<https://bit.ly/joinjtownsrainbow>

<p><b>BCSF Board Highlights from April 23, 2023</b></p> <p>Quorum not met.</p> <p>BCSF's financial are GREEN.</p>	<p>Rev. Opel starts as Resident Minister on June 1. Rev. Henry will meet with her regarding BCSF, BCA and other responsibilities.</p> <p>Closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.</p>	<p><b>BCSF General Membership meeting Highlights from May 7, 2023</b></p> <p>1. Reviewed projected building maintenance &amp; repairs for 2023-24. Looked back at 2020-2022 completed maintenance projects.</p>	<p>2. Motion passed to allow the 2023 board to approve transactions over \$5000.</p>
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BCSF member Chelsea Arita is performing with SMTB Taiko, June 24 and 25, 1:30 p.m.



Published monthly by the  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

### Welcome!

The Buddhist Church of San Francisco welcomes all those who wish to learn about the boundless wisdom and compassion that is Amida Buddha without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity/ expression.

### Photos and Credits:

- page 1: Appreciation Service by Kevin Yoza & Teresa Ono
- page 4: Jr. YBA leadership workshop by Emily Land
- page 5: Rev. Sasaki's funeral by Kevin Yoza
- page 6: Land family and Camille Pating by Kevin Yoza
- page 8: Camille HH & Jr. YBA grads by Kevin Yoza William Che, Misaye Abiko, Suzanne Yamada & Ina Tao by Arlene Kimata
- page 11: BJ Soriano by Kevin Yoza

### Buddhist Church of San Francisco Mission Statement

The purpose of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco (BCSF) is to maintain a temple and to establish a Buddhist community of the Jodo Shinshu faith in San Francisco, CA. Building on our profound legacy as a Jodo Shinshu spiritual center, we strive to awaken within us the compassion and wisdom of the Buddha Dharma. BCSF endeavors to share the teaching of the Buddha with all those who seek the knowledge and the truth of the Buddha Dharma, to promote our Sangha (community); and to provide for the general welfare and services to guide the activities which strengthen our faith in the Buddha and advance our learning in the Dharma.



### Resident Minister

Rev. Melissa Opel

### Minister's Assistants

- Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki (Kyoshi)
- Rev. Dr. David Pating (Kyoshi)
- Rev. Elaine Donlin (Tokudo)
- Jack Dairiki (Honorary)
- Camille Pating

### 2023 BCSF Board of Directors

- President: Arlene Kimata
- Vice President of Programs: Nanayo Silver
- Treasurer: Kevin Yoza
- Secretary: Susan Sakuma, Melissa Angel, Doug Dorn

### BCSF Office Manager

Sheryl Serafino  
bcsfoffice@gmail.com  
415-776-3159  
In Office on T, W, F;  
Remote on M, Th

### Light of Dharma committee:

Rev. Elaine Donlin, Arlene Kimata,  
Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki,  
Susan Sakuma, BJ Soriano

The views expressed in this newsletter reflect the opinions of contributors and not necessarily of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

We apologize for any errors or omissions.  
Please notify us of corrections and send your comments to:

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Mail: Light of Dharma,  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco,  
1881 Pine St. San Francisco CA 94109

Visit us at:

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**Deeply Grateful (Arigatai)** was especially composed by BJ Soriano for the Appreciation service on April 30, 2023.

BJ is a member of

both BCSF and Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin. She will be leading a guitar and ukulele workshop on July 8 from 1-4 pm in the BCSF Social Hall.

Sign up by May 31st.

**Deeply Grateful (Arigatai)**

*When we stop and think about all that's occurred,  
During these past few years which changed us completely  
Through illness and pain, the suffering and tears  
If we're honest, we'll say being grateful wasn't easy*

*Yet, some of you here searched deep in your souls  
And with hearts filled with love, showed kindness to all  
reaching out with your talents, you shared your kind gifts  
And found ways to shine light through the darkest of days*

**Outro:**

*Arigatai, we are so deeply grateful  
To you, who sacrificed much for all  
Your compassion and hope moved us forward each day  
We thankfully bow once more and say,  
"Arigatai, Arigatai, Arigatai- Arigatai"*

**June & July Dates**

All Sunday services are in person and Livestream/Zoom.

Check BCSF's YouTube channel for Sunday service postings.

- June 4** -10 a.m. Sangha Service
- June 9** - 6:30 p.m. BCSF YAO Spring Service/ Affiliate Graduation Service
- June 11** - 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
- June 11**- 1 p.m.- Japanese Service
- June 18**-10 a.m. Sangha Service
- Saturday June 24**- 5 p.m. Metta Service  
Dharma talk by Rev. Elaine Donlin
- June 25**- 10 a.m. BCSF LGBTQ+ Service



**July 2** -10 a.m. Sangha Service

**Sat. July 8**- 1- 4 p.m. Ukulele/ guitar workshop

**July 9** - 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

**July 9**- 1 p.m.- Japanese Service

**Sat. July 15**- Aloha Bento



**July 16** - 10 a.m. Hatsubon/ Obon Service

**July 23**- OBON ODORI on Octavia

11 a.m. Food Concession in the Gym

1 p.m. Obon dancing

**July 30**- 10 a.m. Sangha Service

11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Market Place sale in the gym



BCSF Board of Directors

June 18- 1 p.m. regular board meeting

Mindful Meditation meets every Wed., 6:30 p.m. (Zoom) June 7, 14, 21, 28